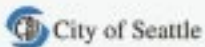


Get Involved
in Your Southeast
Neighborhood

2000

Neighborhood Plan Implementation



April 2001

Dear Community Member:

In 1999, the City Council finished the approval process for 38 neighborhood plans created by nearly 20,000 citizens. The plans identify actions needed to ensure that each neighborhood will continue to thrive and improve as Seattle grows over the next 20 years in ways that meet our commitments under the State's Growth Management Act. We are happy to report that the process of making these plans a reality is well underway.

1. The community is leading much of the activity with the help of the City's Neighborhood Matching Fund. The Fund has been tripled to \$4.5 million over the past three years. Matching the City's contribution with donated cash and volunteer labor, the community is now completing about 250 neighborhood improvement projects each year.
2. Seattle's voters have committed major funding to carry out key portions of the plans through three ballot measures. A 1998 bond measure is resulting in 27 new, expanded, or renovated branch libraries and a new Downtown library; a 1999 levy will develop 11 new or expanded community centers; and last November's levy will produce over 100 park projects throughout Seattle.
3. Most of the work, though, will result from the City's new way of doing business: a decentralization to organize the work of City government around neighborhood priorities as defined by the neighborhoods themselves. Seattle has been divided into six sectors as shown on the map to the right. Decentralization makes it easier for departments to work together and with the community.

These things combined are converting neighborhood plans into real neighborhood improvements. Action on more than 1,000 plan recommendations is already underway or completed: new public facilities, parks, and community gardens; street repair; public safety and traffic improvements; design guidelines; art projects; and much more.

While this report focuses on what's being done to fulfill the neighborhood plans in your sector, other kinds of improvements are also occurring in your sector and throughout Seattle. The report lists community and City contact people for key projects in the hope that you will want to join in making your neighborhood the best possible place to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,

Paul Schell
Mayor of Seattle

Richard Conlin, Seattle City Council
Neighborhoods, Sustainability and
Community Development Committee Chair

Southeast

- North Beacon Hill
- North Rainier Valley
- Columbia City/Hillman City/Genesee
- MLK@Holly Street
- Rainier Beach



Orca Playground neighbors
at work.

Southeast Sector

Projects Completed

Public Safety

1. **Speed Control on M. L. King Jr. Way South** — With a portion of their Early Implementation Fund award, the MLK@Holly Neighborhood Planning group purchased extra Seattle Police Department speed control assistance. In each quarter in 2000, motorcycle officers worked stretches of M. L. King Jr. Way South for several days at a time, which resulted in over 400 speeding tickets and recovery of two stolen cars.

Arts and Culture

2. **Hillman City Public Art** — Artist Stuart Nakamura was chosen by a jury of Hillman City residents and businesses to work with students at Whitworth Elementary and Rainier Beach High School to produce two painted steel pillars and two concrete and ceramic pillars. They chose proverbs as the theme. The colorful pillars have been installed on diagonal corners at South Orcas Street & Rainier Avenue South and one each one block north and south of the intersection. In 2001, pedestrian-scale lights will be selected and installed in the Hillman City business core to further improve the look and safety of the area.

Pedestrian Safety

3. **Courtland Planting Strip Reclamation** — In the Courtland neighborhood of North Rainier, residents partnered with SeaTran to improve the look and safety of Courtland Place South. A Neighborhood Matching Fund award allowed neighbors to install wheel stops as curbing, build planter boxes between the curb and sidewalk, and install landscaping where neighbors had previously parked cars. In 2001 the neighbors and SeaTran will tackle 36th Avenue South, a street with no sidewalk. Neighbors hope to make a walkway and beautify the street with trees and shrubs.



Courtland planting strip volunteers take a

4. **South Alaska Street Sidewalk** — SeaTran responded to the Columbia City/Hillman City Plan's request for improved pedestrian walkways between M. L. King Jr. Way South and Beacon Hill by experimenting with a new asphalt curb and sidewalk on South Alaska Street.

5. **Lighthouse for the Blind and Center Park Sidewalk Improvements** — SeaTran worked closely with Lighthouse for the Blind employees and Center Park residents to identify and complete high-priority sidewalk and wheelchair ramp repairs between M. L. King Jr. Way South and Rainier Avenue South.
6. **Rainier Beach Business District Sidewalks** — SeaTran worked with Rainier Beach merchants to patch sidewalks in 2000. In 2001, Seattle City Light, Department of Neighborhoods, and merchants will collaborate to install pedestrian-scale lighting in the business area. Improving health and safety in the business area is a top goal of the Rainier Beach plan.

Parks, Gardens & Open Space

7. **Jefferson Park** — Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Parks and Recreation dramatically increased the amount of accessible open space by moving fences closer to the reservoirs. Residents and staff celebrated with a fence clipping ceremony complete with the Beacon Hill Singers crooning "Don't Fence Me In."



Views from Jefferson Park.

Community Building

8. **First Annual Southeast Sector Event** — In October neighborhood plan stewardship groups, City staff, and other project advocates gathered at Jefferson Community Center to share information about successes and future projects. The Beacon Hill Elementary School Unicycle Team entertained the crowd with feats of focus and balance.

Projects in Progress

Libraries for All

1. **Beacon Hill Branch Site** — During 2000, after an extensive review of potential sites, Seattle Public Library successfully negotiated with Wells Fargo Bank for the bank's property on Beacon Hill as the future site of a new branch library. Design of the new Beacon Hill branch library will proceed in 2001.

Community Design

2. **McClellan Town Center Strategy** — The Strategic Planning Office organized a team of community representatives, staff, designers, and developers to look at development potential around the future light rail station so that Sound Transit's design fits with neighborhood requests for a North Rainier town center. So far ideas include: 1) installation of a roundabout at Rainier Avenue South & M. L. King Jr. Way South, 2) protection of scenic Cheasty Boulevard, and 3) development of housing and retail spaces in the immediate area.



McClellan Station area, looking toward Franklin High School.

3. **MLK@Othello Development Strategy** — The Strategic Planning Office, with the help of Seattle Housing Authority, has organized a team of designers and property owners to look at how the area around this light rail station may develop. Property owners will learn about each other's vision for their neighborhood and the group may go on to produce design guidelines for the area.

Transportation

4. **Sound Transit** — Sound Transit has committed to a \$50 million Southeast Community Redevelopment Fund as part of building light rail in the Rainier Valley. A community-led steering committee was charged with setting up the Fund. That group's work should finish in 2001 with completion of a work plan and structure for spending the \$50 million.

Public Safety

5. **Mapes Creek Walkway** — The Rainier Beach community continued with Phase II of planning for improvements to this asphalt walkway connecting South Henderson Street to Rainier Avenue South. The refined design calls for a plaza with seating, an

information kiosk, and lights at the north end of the walkway. Construction is slated for summer 2001. The project was spearheaded by residents of the Lake Washington Apartments working to decrease crime in the area through improved aesthetics and lighting.

Arts and Culture

6. **MLK@Holly Banners and Kiosks** — Supported by Early Implementation Fund money, neighborhood residents and area businesses are choosing an artist to design banners for the business district light poles and select two locations for community information kiosks. Work should be completed in fall 2001.

Parks, Gardens & Open Space

7. **Hillside Gardens** — Residents of Mt. Baker Village Apartments are renovating the gardens on City property sloping between M. L. King Jr. Way South and the apartments' parking lot. Historically, this stretch of makeshift beds and irrigation functioned without City sanction, but in 2000 all parties came together with the help of the Department of Neighborhoods' Cultivating Communities Program to improve the gardens' appearance and productivity. Terracing will be completed in summer 2001.



Hillside Gardens design vision.

8. **Orca Playground Redevelopment** — Columbia City residents and Orca Elementary School parents renovated the west side of the school's playground with support from the Early Implementation Fund, Grey to Green Program, and Neighborhood Matching Fund. The new playground includes a sitting wall, new playground equipment, and landscaping. It will be open to the public before and after school. More landscaping will occur in spring 2001.
9. **Cheasty Boulevard Planning** — Planning for a pedestrian path on the shoulder of scenic Cheasty Boulevard, funded with the North Rainier Neighborhood Plan's Early Implementation Fund award, was halted due to space constraints and concerns about the path running too close to homes along the boulevard. In the meantime, voters approved the Pro Parks Levy, which includes \$1 million for much-needed improvements to this hidden and sometimes neglected Olmsted jewel. Comprehensive planning for improvements to Cheasty will start in 2001.

If you want to get involved in a Southeast Sector project

Future Projects

Pro Parks Levy Projects

1. Jefferson Park Development — Approximately \$8 million will fund new trails, tennis courts, and open space in place of the North Beacon Reservoir, which is slated to be decommissioned in 2007. Work has begun on the City's and community's plan to design and construct a new children's play area and a new gymnasium (funded by voters in 1999) and to use many new acres of land that will become available in this Olmsted-designed park.
2. York Substation Purchase and Development — North Rainier neighbors will work with Seattle City Light and Seattle Parks and Recreation to convert the former York Substation into a much-needed park, using approximately \$200,000 in levy revenue.
3. Cheasty Boulevard Improvements — Through community planning and attention to drainage, foliage, illegal dumping, pedestrian spaces, and traffic problems, this Olmsted boulevard will receive the improvements it deserves. The Pro Parks Levy will provide \$1 million toward this work. Planning is expected to start in spring.
4. Columbia Park Improvements — The Pro Parks Levy will provide \$309,300 for landscape upgrades to this greenspace behind the Columbia City Library.
5. 37th Avenue South Park Improvements — Improvements costing \$515,000 will be made to this park that serves New Holly and other South Central Valley residents.
6. Rainier Beach Public Plaza — With \$163,929 in levy revenue, the community and Seattle Parks and Recreation will transform the northwest corner of Rainier Avenue South & South Henderson Street in the Rainier Beach business district into a pleasant and safe gathering space.

Community Contacts

Beacon Hill Chamber of Commerce, Debra Casault	325-5774
Columbia City Business Association, Pam Stokes	723-3340
Columbia City Revitalization Committee, Eric Tweit	721-3152
www.cityofseattle.net/don/COLUMBIA	
Hillside Gardens, Wendy Hughes-Jelen	725-4152
Jefferson Park Alliance, Pat Jackson	762-7793
pjackson1@qwest.net www.cityofseattle.net/beaconhill/jpa.htm	
Mapes Creek/52 nd Ave. Walkway, Lynn Miner	723-6723
MLK@Holly Stewards, Ron Newton	461-4775
North Beacon Hill Council, Michael Richmond	721-1113
Richmond@accessone.com	
North Beacon Hill Council, Neil Wilson	328-9580
Tax@neilcpa.com	
North Rainier Stewards, Ruth Korkowski	723-4444
skidal@earthlink.net	
Rainier Beach 2014 Stewardship, Dawn Blanch	725-2010
Rainier Beach Merchants Association, Doug Young	722-3661
Rainier Beach Merchants Association, Gilbert Whitman	721-4831

City of Seattle Contacts

Strategic Planning Office/Station Area Planning, Amy Glenn	615-0790
Seattle Parks and Recreation, Roger Dane	684-7594
Seattle Public Library, Bobbie Daniel	386-1907
SeaTran (Seattle Transportation), Tony Mazzella	684-0811
Seattle City Council/Southeast Steward, Hon. Richard Conlin	684-8805
Seattle City Light, Dena Peel	684-3637

Department of Neighborhoods

Historic Preservation (Columbia City), Eugenia Woo	684-0226
Neighborhood Matching Fund, Anne Takekawa	684-4523
P-Patch Program, Julie Bryan	684-0264 ext. 5
Southeast (Columbia City) Neighborhood Service Center, Pamela Green	386-1924
Greater Duwamish (Beacon Hill) Neighborhood Service Center, Glenn Harris	233-2044

Your Neighborhood Development Manager

Sally J. Clark, Department of Neighborhoods
phone: 684-0439, fax 233-8561, e-mail: sally.clark@ci.seattle.wa.us
www.cityofseattle.net/don

The Beacon Hill Unicycle Team modeled balance and perseverance at the Southeast Plan Action Kick-Off in October 2000.



Accommodations for persons with disabilities provided upon request.
Phone 684-0464, TDD 615-0476.